

Sample Student

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English 11- 2

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UC Essay Sample Prompt #1

Before I was even born I had a prenatal stroke. Nobody knew until a few hours had passed from when I was born because I had stopped breathing. After the doctors had me breathing again, they did a lot of tests on me. All of the doctors told my parents that because I had a stroke, I would be partly paralyzed, blind, and deaf. However, there was one doctor who told my parents something completely different. He told them that I would be a normal child and adult if my parents took me to therapy and followed the directions that they gave them for me. He was right. He had said that because I had the stroke before I was born, I would be fine because I never learned how to do anything. However, he did warn my parents that I would struggle with some things, because the stroke had damaged a small part of my brain.

Due to the complications at birth, I struggled as soon as I entered school. I always struggled in comprehension after reading a passage. Before I got the help that I needed to understand what I read, I would put myself down and sometimes I felt like a failure. Once I got the help to comprehend what I read better, I started to feel more confident about what I was reading and could discuss what I read with others. To this day, I still struggle in comprehending what I read, but I never give up. The times that I want to give up, I just take a deep breath and relax for a little while. If I am having a hard time relaxing, and feel bad about myself, I go outside for a little while and play some softball, which is my favorite thing to do, in order to get

myself back on track. As soon as I am relaxed again, I go back to whatever I was struggling in. My rule is to continue persevering, because I know that is the only way I will reach my goals.

With my personal experience as an infant, my dream has always been to become a registered nurse. I have always been curious about how the human body works. I plan to become a nurse, so that I will have the opportunity to help others who are in need, the same way I was helped when I needed it, seconds after being born.